

Understanding the Unique Behavioral Health Needs of Children and Families Involved with Child Protective Services

While many children may experience trauma, loss, or anxiety, those in the child welfare system tend to be exposed to an accumulation of adverse childhood experiences and life transitions to which children from other families may never be exposed. The Arizona Department of Health Services' (ADHS) Division of Behavioral Health Services (DBHS) working in partnership with Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority, Child Protective Services (CPS), family members, Child and Family Support Services and other stakeholders, has created a training curriculum intended to increase clinical understanding of the unique behavioral health needs of children and families involved with CPS in order to enhance responsiveness to addressing those needs.

Behavioral health provider staff is required to attend classes co-taught by CPS and behavioral health staff using this curriculum. The curriculum can be found on

<http://www.cfttraining.com>. This website also has an e-learning version of the curriculum which is available to anyone.

The curriculum highlights various aspects of the CPS system including mandates and timeframes as well as the court process that governs it. Please note that this training is focused on CPS and does not reflect how Tribal Social Services for each Tribal Region operate - i.e. if you are involved with a child who is enrolled in a Tribal Regional Behavioral Health Authority, you may need to consult/work with the Tribal Social Services Department. The "Unique Needs" training curriculum supplements the [ADHS/DBHS Practice Protocol "Understanding the Unique Behavioral Health Needs of Children and Families Involved with Child Protective Services"](#). The Practice Protocol is referenced frequently throughout the training.